New ACOTE Accreditation Standards Adopted

After an extensive 2-year process, multiple surveys to the communities of interest, and several open hearings, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) has adopted new accreditation standards for doctoral-degree-level occupational therapy programs, master's-degree-level occupational therapy programs, and associate-degree-level occupational therapy assistant programs. The new Standards are available on the ACOTE accreditation section of the AOTA Web site (www.acoteonline.org). Programs will be required to comply with the new 2011 Standards by July 31, 2013.

At the 2012 AOTA Annual Conference and Expo in Indianapolis, ACOTE will host two information sessions on the new Standards. One session will be presented at the meeting of the Program Director Councils. The second session is scheduled from 2-3:00 pm on Saturday, April 28th in the White River Ballroom of the JW Marriott.

In the fall of 2012 and spring of 2013, ACOTE will provide regional workshops for interested faculty. The workshops will focus on the changes in the new Standards and strategies that programs could use to ensure compliance. For those program directors and faculty unable to attend a live workshop, the Council will be hosting a series of webinars over the year.

Any questions regarding the new Standards should be e-mailed to accred@aota.org.